



AF / ITW
GP 2879

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Applicant:

Roland M. Morley et al.

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Art Unit: 2879

§

Serial No.: 09/847,447

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Examiner: S. Leurig

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P10840

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

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REPLY BRIEF

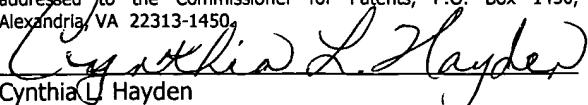
Sir:

This responds to the new points raised by the Examiner in the Examiner's Answer.

The Examiner questions how the Applicants' claimed alignment devices can be used to align without the guidance of a user. Of course, that is not what the Applicants argued. The issue is not whether the alignment devices require any user involvement, but whether the alignment devices provide any alignment function whatsoever. The point that was made in the opening brief was that the so-called alignment devices suggested by the Examiner do not have any alignment function, but, instead, rely totally on the user to do the alignment.

The quibble here is certainly inconsistent with normal English language usage. The term "alignment device" is a well known term. It refers to a device that aids in alignment. It was never argued that a user would not interact with an alignment device.

Even if electrical contacts must be aligned in order to make an electrical connection so that the Examiner can argue their alignment is critical to the functioning of the device, no one

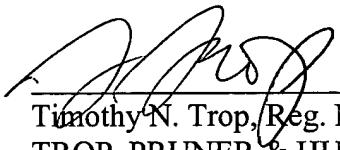
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Cynthia L. Hayden

would call them alignment devices. There are not devices which function to align. They are devices that are aligned.

In effect, the Examiner reads alignment out of the claim because, according to the Examiner, anything can be an alignment device, even if it has no aligning function. If it works in alignment, the Examiner can now call the device an alignment device, even though it has no alignment function. This is so contrary to English usage as to be totally untenable.

Therefore, the rejection should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,



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